



## Town of Garner **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Garner Hires New Economic Development Director**

Joe Stallings has been selected as the town's next economic development director. He will begin work in his new role on Jan. 26.

Stallings comes to Garner from the Town of Benson where he served as economic development and media coordinator for three and a half years. In that role, he was responsible for all town economic development activities and media efforts and oversaw the town's Main Street program, grant programs and revolving loan fund.

"I am excited to have Joe join Garner's development services team," said John Hodges, assistant town manager-development services. "Joe brings a broad range of experience and an unbridled enthusiasm for economic development that will help us attract new business and investment to Garner while nurturing and growing our existing base."

"I look forward to joining the Garner team and continuing with the great work that has already been done – especially working on the Garner Technology Center site," Stallings said.

Stallings holds a master's degree in public administration from Appalachian State University where he also received his bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in town, city and county management and a minor in planning.

He is a graduate of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government's Municipal and County Administration Program and Essentials of Economic Development course as well as the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute. He has served on the Benson Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as well as the Johnston County Visitors Bureau Board.

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The economic development director position became vacant last fall when Tony Beasley moved into the role of inspections director for the Town. Beasley served as economic development director for over six years and has continued to assist with economic development initiatives in addition to leading the Inspections Department.

In addition to Economic Development, the town's development services team includes the Planning, Inspections, Engineering departments, which work together to provide cohesive services, infrastructure and support to encourage and enable business development in Garner.

For more information regarding economic development and development services, contact Assistant Town Manager John Hodges at (919) 773-4437.

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